

leaders have been systematically harassed and imprisoned for activities deemed unacceptable by the authorities.

However, half a century of repression has not broken the spirit of the Baltic peoples. Today, their longing and hopes for liberty remain strong. Hundreds of thousands of Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian men and women have publicly demonstrated their desire for freedom and democracy, calling for national autonomy and control over their own affairs.

The future looks brighter today than at any other time in the Baltic States' post-war experience. The undeniable voice of Baltic people is being heard. Some religious shrines—desecrated by the Communist government and used to house concerts, artwork, and even a museum of atheism—have been returned to the churches. Members of the clergy have been allowed to take up their pastoral duties. The unique languages, national flags, and patriotic songs of the three countries have been restored. Some political prisoners have been released.

These are important steps, but justice demands that more be taken. Recent improvements in human rights practices by the ruling Communist officials are not complete, nor have they been institutionalized. The people of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia both demand and deserve lasting guarantees of their fundamental rights.

The Government of the United States does not and will not recognize the unilateral incorporation by force of arms of the Baltic States into the Soviet Union. Of this observance of Baltic Freedom Day, we express our solidarity with them and call upon the Soviet Union to listen to their calls for freedom and self-determination.

By Senate Joint Resolution 63, the Congress has designated June 14, 1989, as "Baltic Freedom Day" and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this event.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim June 14, 1989, as Baltic Freedom Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate remembrances and ceremonies and to reaffirm their commitment to principles of liberty and freedom for all oppressed people.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 5991 of June 15, 1989

National Grasslands Week, 1989

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

We Americans have been blessed with a fertile land of unparalleled beauty. It is the source of much of our country's strength and wealth.

The great sweep of grasslands that crosses the continent—beginning below the border of Mexico and stretching into central Canada—is an ecological treasure.

Nearly 4,000,000 acres of grasslands, located in 11 States across the United States, are public property. These national grasslands constitute an invaluable resource for the American people. Archeologists, anthropologists, and rangeland ecologists have discovered enormous potential for scientific research in them. Careful management has made them a model of successful conservation policies and multiple-use of land. It has also enhanced public appreciation for the natural resources they contain. Throughout the national grasslands, innovative agricultural techniques—as well as sustained-yield management of oil, gas, timber, fish, wildlife, and forage for livestock—are being developed.

The national grasslands are home to a variety of plants, soils, minerals, and animals not found elsewhere. The lands are also a source of employment and economic stability for rural Americans, who benefit from the opportunities they provide in livestock grazing, energy development, tourism, and recreation.

Publicly owned and beneficial to all Americans, the national grasslands are a proud portion of our natural heritage. This week, let us renew our appreciation for them. Let us also remember our responsibility—as individuals and as a Nation—to cherish and protect the environment.

In recognition of the value of the national grasslands, the Congress, by Public Law 100-664, has designated the week of June 18 through June 24, 1989, as "National Grasslands Week" and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim June 18 through June 24, 1989, as National Grasslands Week and call upon the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 5992 of June 16, 1989

National Scleroderma Awareness Week, 1989

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

Each year, thousands of Americans suffer from a rare but serious disease known as scleroderma. We must call national attention to this mysterious ailment and the ongoing efforts to find a cure for it.

Scleroderma, which literally means "hard skin," is a painful and debilitating connective tissue disease characterized by excessive deposits of